

ABSTRACT

A system for selecting travel products is described. The methods and system of the invention enable a travel agent or client to search a travel database that contains information about: (i) technical specifications about a travel product; (ii) price information for the travel product; (iii) comparative pricing information about the travel product, e.g., travel specials; (iv) graphical and pictorial information about the travel product; (v) sales and promotional messages; (vi) a uniform resource locator (URL) address for a Web site containing information and hyperlinks to other Internet sites of interest on the Worldwide Web; or (vii) on virtual faxes. The methods and system of the present invention enable the travel agent to search a remotely located travel database using a wide range of selection criteria and provide the supplier of travel products with a comparatively inexpensive and rapid method for distributing information about all their travel products using a system of virtual faxes. The methods and systems of searching, retrieving and distributing information using this invention may be applied to other areas requiring rapid distribution of information to a geographically disperse group of users.